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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1910.

REFORM THE SYSTEM!

There is something radically wrong in our system of government when the Democratic House of Representatives elected last Tuesday will not assemble until December, 1911, thirteen months after the election has occurred.

More than a year will elapse before these Representatives, chosen because the people of the United States demand a change in our political and social conditions, will come together to formulate a programme of legislation. Thirteen long months of waiting, during which time the issues which made the result of the election possible may entirely change and possibly be half forgotten.

They do these things better in England, where a Parliament elected upon a vital issue is immediately assembled. It seems strange to think that the Democrats elected with so much jubilation last Tuesday will not take the oath of office until a year from next December.

Provision ought to be made for the new Congress to begin on the first Monday in December following the election. The present system, a relic of the slow, tedious, and inconvenient methods of travel a century ago, is obsolete and absurd.

The cost of living may have been a "minor issue," but the protest against it was sounded in a major key.

Saving Despite High Cost of Living.

Savings banks returns in Massachusetts for the year ended with October are indeed gratifying. The year's deposits of the Boston savings banks, October 31, amounted to \$29,429,000, the largest ever known there, the increase over those of a year ago being \$7,744,000. So far as Boston and vicinity are concerned, it would seem to dispel the notion that the working classes either are exceptionally unable to save, through the high cost of living, or are exceptionally indisposed to save through the varied extravagances of the times. The increase of deposits in all the savings banks of the State, while a trifle less than last year, is well above the average for the past four or five years.

Incidentally, there is a feature of the Boston savings returns which cannot be regarded as promising great success for the planned postal savings system in that section of the country. Of the nineteen Boston savings banks, seven pay 3 1/2 per cent on deposits, and all of the others 4 per cent. The ratio of increase in the different banks shows that the patrons have a close eye for the larger interest returns. How can the government postal banks hope to compete with 4 per cent when they allow only 2 per cent?

It was such a "corking" time that it seems to have bottled up his eloquence.

A Collusion for Contracts?

One of the Washington dispatches which aims to give an authentic report of the recent opening of bids in the Navy Department for the construction of six torpedo-boat destroyers celebrates the virtue of one of the bidders for "remaining aloof from what the Navy Department officials believe to be a shipbuilders' combine," so that this particular firm "has lost its chance to obtain a share of the contracts." It was quite evident, from the character of the bidding, that the shipbuilders "got together" and so parceled out the work that one firm will build two destroyers, while four other concerns will build one each. The shipbuilder who "remained aloof," as a matter of fact, must have been in the combination, if there was one. Moreover, if there is to be any distribution of honors in this whole transaction, the company which made its bid at an excessive rate so as to escape any of the contracts "might" go to five other "rivals" is no more entitled to praise than the firms which will do the work.

There is supposed to be, somewhere, a law which prohibits combinations of this sort, but every now and then it is apparent to the most casual observer that the government is confronted with collusion among bidders. We are in no position to assert that the competition which was manifested in the recent opening of bids for the construction of the destroyers was in any sense a combination among the shipbuilding firms. All any one is justified in saying, or could by any possibility prove, is the remarkable coincidence of bidding which equitably distributes the contracts, when under existing circumstances, and with no restriction of the statutes, one firm could build all of the six destroyers at presumably a material saving to the government and a correspondingly greater profit to the shipbuilder. It is probable, also, that nothing would be gained by an investigation, and the Navy Department, under such circumstances, will find it possible only to award the contracts to the lowest bidders at prices which are ad-

mitedly reasonable. Our only objection is that any one of the firms in the competition should be unduly praised at the expense, in the way of insinuation, of others, especially when the evidences of a combination are quite as visible in that as in the other instances.

Michigan seems to be the only State that had a "real old-fashioned Republican majority."

Harmon's Duty to His State.

Judson Harmon's future hangs in the balance.

He has won a second magnificent victory for the Democratic party. The people of Ohio believe in him. He has administered the affairs of the State honestly, else an enlightened electorate would not have entrusted him with further tenure.

But his political future to-day hangs in the balance.

He cannot play a waiting game. He cannot efface himself in expectation. He must meet, not shrink, each new responsibility confronting him, guard the public welfare, and still be governor in both name and fact.

A strange message coming out of Columbus prompts these observations. It tells us that his friends—his President-making friends—are arguing that he must now get out of the State or jeopardize his popularity; must quit the office to which the people have elected him or endanger his chance of reaching the White House—that the prospective fight over the Senatorship and unavoidable action by the legislature on local option require, for his own personal and political ends, that he himself be elected Senator, to take him off the scene while the Presidential bid continues to buzz.

There is no better way for Judson Harmon to turn that balance the wrong way and convert an honorable aspiration into an ignominious ambition than by pursuing the dodging and cowardly course here now mapped out for him.

If unequal to a trying situation, developed by this election, in his own State, what capacity or courage might be expected in higher station and more trying role, dealing with the affairs of the nation?

Gov. Harmon could have forestalled embarrassment by following the example set by Gov. Marshall in forcing a nomination in the absence of a primary—and thus making known to the State in advance which the Dick toga would fall upon in the event of a Democratic legislature. Having failed to do this, it is now his belated but none the less pressing paramount duty to see that his State is not disgraced in the outcome of the Senatorial contest. And he will not be the statesman now appraised so highly if he evade that duty and responsibility.

Judson Harmon's road to the Presidency does not lead through the United States Senate. He can reach his goal only by continuing to serve the people faithfully and courageously in the office to which they have elected him—by meeting local issues squarely and fearlessly, and, above all, by protecting the State's honor and good name in the choice of a Senator.

His future hangs in the balance, and the country will watch how it turns.

Many thrifty housekeepers will be gratified to learn that the price of automobile tires has been reduced 15 per cent.

A Word of Sanity.

Most of the published statements of prominent men regarding the recent election and its rather amazing results have been either frankly partisanly jubilant or reasoned with humor. In truth, we have been too close to the recent campaign to be able to comprehend, in all its bearings, just what the upheaval against conditions that had become somewhat intolerable means. But we desire to commend to our readers the sane utterance on the subject of Mayor Gaynor, of New York, who has not allowed the Democratic victory to disturb that mental equipoise which has been one of his most striking characteristics and which has done so much to commend him to the country at large.

Says Mr. Gaynor:

"I do not view the result in a partisan spirit or with a mere feeling of elation. I see in it a readjustment of those votes throughout the country who are too intelligent to remain mere thick-and-thin partisans. We are emerging from an evil case. The flocking of nearly all business men, owners of property, and even persons with \$100 in savings bank to one party made a division line and created a contrast which must have led to trouble if much longer continued. The intelligence of the country is asserting itself, and business men and property owners will again divide themselves normally between the parties, as formerly, and as they do in other countries."

There, succinctly and sanely, is expressed the true meaning of the votes cast last Tuesday for the Democratic ticket. Truly, as Mayor Gaynor points out, the intelligence of the country is asserting itself, awakened and stimulated by the fact that each individual throughout the land has felt, personally, the pressure of legislation that, to say the least, has not made living conditions easier or more pleasant.

It is true, too, that "we are emerging from an evil case." And we are emerging simply because of a growth of intelligence throughout the country which no longer allows individuals to be tied down and blinded to their own interests by mere partisan prejudice or political sibilhoeth. From now on, we feel sure, it will always be men rather than measures that will count, and party lines, already attenuated to the breaking point, will, in the time to come, have less and less force as political factors.

Any one who is seeking real hotiorty will do well to produce Belle Elmore before November 23.

The eagle on the dollar is and will remain the very best Thanksgiving bird.

Elections are just as safe to bet on as Wall Street deals, if you only know the trick.

One of the first and up-to-date results of the Portuguese revolution is a pension list.

"Politics was the one passion of the late David B. Hill's life," says Harper's Weekly. No, not politics—Democracy.

There's a justice of the peace out in Nebraska who keeps a hardware shop.

Whenever a customer buys a revolver, he arrests him and fines him for carrying it. That man will be a captain of industry some day.

Have you noticed the decrease in the high cost of living?

Even if the express companies had called off their strife, the Republicans could hardly have got through with all that excess baggage.

No one is so proud these days as the chap who knew exactly what was going to happen.

Sing a song of silence,
Campaign full of lies;
Four and twenty blackbills
Make a nice row pie.

Nevada has prohibited bridge whist. What in the world are people going to do while waiting for divorce?

Richard Le Gallienne says he does not want to associate with any one who cannot speak good English; and his wife says she does not want to associate with a poet. So the issue is joined.

A St. Louis woman who advertises that she has 500 pounds of bacon, wants a husband. What bachelor could resist affluence such as this.

Mary in the vine-covered cottage out in Indiana is weeping for Beveridge.

Now that the tumult and the shouting have died, Secretary of War Dickinson has come back.

One might think that all this front page display of the rooster was only another ad for "Chanticleer."

At least he showed discrimination in picking out a son-in-law who could win.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

THE BASEBALL PAGE.

I glanced across the baseball page. To-day it bore
Some observations on the stage,
A football score,
An anecdote about some judge,
And a receipt for making fudge.

My brief inspection pained me much.

"The pretty rough
When baseball news gives way to such
plain stuff,
So half in pity, half in rage,
I tore to bits the baseball page."

To Put It Mildly.

"They say he has a swelled head."
"I must admit that he seems to appreciate himself very much."

Not a Love Story.

"Dear heart!" murmured she.
"Only two cents a pound increase," protested the butcher.

A Modern Equivalent.

"My grandmother says they used to have barn dances in her day."
"I see the idea. Now, why couldn't we set up a garage party?"

A Windy Month.

The man in the street,
Just remember,
Sees some hoarsest neat
In November.

Once Upon a Time.

"Once I could have bought the site of Chicago for \$400."

"I know how it is, old man. Once I had a chance to buy a beefsteak for 20 cents a pound."

A Temporary Truce.

"Still agitating for the suffrage, my dear?"

"Well, just at present I'm trying to get my husband to buy me a pony coat."

Modern Housekeeping.

"Is she bringing up her daughters in a practical way?"

"Oh, very. Any one of them can go into the kitchen and make a good chemical analysis."

People Are Often Fooled.

From the Athens Globe.

People are often fooled by their leaders. After the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the people were told that every patriotic man should have Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln as President.

Johnson was considered a traitor, and an attempt was made to impeach him.

But it is believed by many now that Johnson was an honest, conscientious man, that the attempt to impeach him was the most infamous proceeding in the history of the country. Fairness was thrown to the winds in the proceedings; the constitutional rights of citizens were trampled upon; the entire impeachment proceeding, according to many later critics, was a disgrace to the men who took part in it.

Still, men who refused to vote for impeachment, and who did their plain duty, are still regarded as traitors.

Always remember that people are often fooled by leaders. Think for yourself more.

"The Gift of God."

From the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Some very bright things have been said about "The Gift of God" during his present period of disturbance; but nothing better than what "Our Candidate" says about him in the last number of the esteemed Commonwealth, as follows:

"Several Republicans have tried to explain why Mr. Roosevelt's progressivism is more progressive in some sections than in others. There is no mystery about it. When he starts out in his progressivism, he simply observes the speed limits of the various localities. On the plains of Kansas he goes like a blazer, but when he reaches the crowded thoroughfares of New York he goes so slow that you would have to get behind the machine to be run over."

One of the strongest things about "The Gift of God" is his double-back action.

Nobody Called Hill "Dave."

From the New York Tribune.

The death of David B. Hill recalls this story: One warm evening in the summer of Hill's first term as governor three newspaper men, having filed their stories in the Saratoga telegraph office, retired for a chat to Mark Con's store, where they were joined by a Spag who told a story which included a conversation with the governor. The dialogue was punctuated with expressions like "Dave," said I. "You don't say so, Dave." After the man had gone, one of the correspondents asked: "Mark, is that man a relative of Hill's?" and when he received a negative answer, said: "Then he's a liar—the man doesn't live who calls Hill 'Dave.'"

Senator Bourne's Belief.

Senator Jonathan Bourne, Jr., of Oregon, believes that the political bosses are done for, anyway. "There are enough progressives and independent voters in each party," he said, in an interview, "to promise the early overthrow of dictators in both. The present shake-up in politics is not a temporary matter. In fact, it is just the beginning of a struggle by the people of this nation to re-establish their sovereignty. The issue before the country is whether popular government with general welfare as its vitalizing force, shall save and develop this nation or whether delegated government with selfishness, the destroying force, shall bring the nation to inevitable anarchy."

From Punch.

"Father."

"Well, what is it?"

"It says here, 'A man is known by the company he keeps.' Is that so, father?"

"Well, father, if a good man keeps company with a bad man, is the good man bad because he keeps company with the bad man, and is the bad man good because he keeps company with the good man?"

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ELECTION VIEWS.

Looks Like Champ Clark.

From the Baltimore American.

It looks very much as though Champ Clark might be a lively scrap over the Speakership, but in accord with the precedents and traditions of his party, the Missouri statesman is entitled to be selected as presiding officer of the House when it is within the power of his party to elect the Speaker.

Not Democratic-Discontented.

From the New York Evening Mail.

The country is not Democratic—it is discontented. It has entered a protest against things as they are, but the protest embodies so many and such widely differing views that, emphatic as it is, it gives neither direction to new policies nor inspiration to any forward movement in government. It is as chaotic, and to our mind, as unjustified, as the equally erratic and overwhelming victory of the Democrats in 1892.

From Under the Snow.

From the Buffalo Express.

We don't believe that the people of New York meant to call a halt on the spread of the new ideas in government. We don't believe that they wanted to return to the rule of the interests. We don't believe that they intended to rebuke faithful public servants such as Henry L. Stimson and his associates. We don't believe that they desired to reprove the Republican party for having purified itself. We don't believe that they even wished to snub Theodore Roosevelt—though they were weary of hearing him called "the just."

Gerrymandering.

From the Trenton (N. J.) Evening Times.

There has been considerable talk recently about redistricting the State under the new apportionment of Congressmen which will follow the promulgation of the census taken last April, and fears have been expressed that the party in control of the legislature will gerrymander the districts.

When one's own party establishes the district lines, that is "redistricting." When the opposition party does the work, it is "gerrymandering." As a fact, there has been no changing of Congressional district lines within the memory of the present generation of voters that was not a gerrymandering.

The Republican Opportunity.

From the New York Tribune.

Mr. Stimson, the defeated candidate for governor, takes the view of what has happened in this State that should commend itself to Republicans. The result, he says, "is a mere incident in the fight for progress." He has no fear of the permanence of any reaction. The progressives in control of the Republican party should not be discouraged, he thinks, but should go forward with the work of making political life in the State "clean and efficient." The defeat is not a repudiation of what has been done to purify the Republican party. Its reorganization came too late to save the day for it, but it had not been reorganized the "clean and efficient" has undoubtedly been much greater.

Rebuke to Administration.

From the New York Evening Post.

President Taft cannot fail to read in the election returns a severe rebuke to his administration. The result is fully as marked as that given to President Harrison in 1893, and will be generally accepted as indicating, now as then, the election of a Democratic successor. Yet Mr. Taft may consider himself lucky that his personality was made so little of in the campaign. His friends have all along felt a pronounced relief that he was so largely "out of it" and have "clean and efficient" has undoubtedly been much greater.

Democracy's Great Victory.

From the St. Louis Republic.

The election of a Democratic House of Representatives was so unmistakably indicated by the trend of sentiment in all the voting that the actual accomplishment of this result occasions small surprise.

The verdict of the country as a whole surpasses in significance, of course, that of any of its subdivisions. The voice of the American people has been heard in the first expression of its will since November, 1896, and it declares with emphasis against tendencies and policies that began with the appointment of Mr. Taft's Cabinet, were made plainer and more definite during the special session that opened a few days after his inauguration, and were adhered to with fatuous persistence during the regular session of Congress that closed last June.

Waterloo—and After.

From the New York Herald.

There is in some quarters a disposition to deprive Mr. Roosevelt of the credit for the Democratic victory in other parts of the country; nobody disputes the fact that he is fully responsible for it in this State. This is unfair. Mr. Roosevelt should receive full credit for the important part he played in the success of the Democratic candidate everywhere.

And he is responsible for the Republican party in the nation, and since his "retreat from Elba" in his campaign of the hundred days he has "belated to a frazzle" the party in his own State. It is not a partisan victory for the Democrats, but a victory for the country as a whole, for the party is largely due to the votes of independent Republicans disgusted with the reckless, vituperative language and revolutionary principles of the arch-demagogue.

The Warning in Pennsylvania.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Another Republican victory such as that achieved on Tuesday by Mr. Tener under the auspices of the organization, and the Republican party of Pennsylvania will indeed be undone. Mr. Tener will squeeze through by a paltry plurality over Berry of about 40,000 votes.

Contrast with this the recent votes of \$8,000 over Emery and the fusion ticket, which included four parties in addition to the Lincoln party, with its 15,000 votes, but he actually had a majority of all votes cast in the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania had a plurality of nearly 143,000 votes over Pattison in 1902, and a majority of upward of 90,000 of all the votes cast. Tener's vote barely exceeds Berry's, and if the opposition had been concentrated on one really acceptable candidate the matter of Tener's reelection would have constituted a crushing rebuke. The intent and desire of the people to repudiate the organization and its inconceivably insolent methods of imposing candidates on the party have been made clear.

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TRUE TO THEIR TRADITIONS.

Cadets Prefer to Lose Battle Than to Forego "Stiff" Treatment.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The deciding battle of the war was about to be fought. The flower of the army, the West Point battalion, occupied the center of the line, the keystone of the struggle.

"When I cry forward," roared the commanding general, "the cadets will utter a fierce yell and storm the enemy's intrenchment."

But at that moment